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Vol. 62, No. 4
March 19,
2001
Monday

NECC Observer

No. Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.



3 Opinion
*Parking and
walkway conditions
are often hazardous*



10 Arts
*Chamber music
plays the old and
the new*

Opening shots fired in feud on arts

◆ *President, faculty
debate definition of
liberal arts*

By O'RYAN JOHNSON
Observer staff

If you're a liberal arts major, the president has news for you.

Over coffee and bagels March 2, President David Hartleb responded to a question about the proposed new building—which he called the “High-Tech Building”—by telling students, “Liberal arts are at the core of everything we do, as they always have been,” but, he added, “Performing arts, dance and theater are not liberal arts.”

Hartleb later clarified that he does consider reading Shakespeare as a literary work a part of liberal arts. Otherwise, Hartleb said, the humanities and the natural sciences exclusively define liberal arts, and he argued the description is widely accepted.

“He’s wrong,” said Susan Sanders, director of the Top Notch Players. She said drama and theater have been part of the liberal arts since before the Renaissance. She



LAST DANCE FOR PERFORMING ARTS?: Dance and theater performances are not liberal arts, according to President Hartleb. He said the liberal arts are at the core of the college.

said a component of ancient Greek culture was the theater.

“He’s wrong,” said Arthur Barlas of the history department. “The liberal arts include several subjects begun in ancient Greece.” He said to separate the performing arts from the liberal arts de-

tracts from the roots of education.

Hartleb told students the liberal arts have been around only for a few hundred years, and he said the performing arts have never been a part of liberal arts.

“The fine arts have always been a part of the liberal arts,” said

Elaine Mawhinney, chairperson of the Liberal Arts Revitalization Committee.

The dialogue about the importance of liberal arts at NECC is not new to campus. In addition to the formation of L.A.R.C. a few years ago, the All College Council’s Aca-

demie Affairs Task Force, a faculty and staff organization, is in the process of creating a definition of the liberal arts to submit to the college.

Mawhinney said theater and liberal arts are inseparable: “Liberal arts is a study of man and the human condition. Dance is expression that comes from the ideas of man, the basic truths of man.”

When we study the plays of ancient Greece we are studying ourselves, she said. Performing the works helps students gain a greater appreciation for the arts.

“Dance is poetry in motion, it communicates through the instrument of the body, rather than the pen,” Mawhinney said.

Priscilla B. Bellairs, professor of English, said school plays are the first live production 50 percent of her Composition II have attended.

She said NECC students generally do not have notable extracurricular programs at their high schools, and so their first exposure to the arts is at NECC.

“We have a body of alumni that discovered the arts at Northern Essex,” she said.

See SOME, page 5

Knights win Region XXI



Matt Messelaar photo

See story and photos,
page 12.

Students fight for campus stage space

◆ *Compromise sought
for inclusion of stage in
conference area of new
building*

By BARBARA POLLETTA
Editor

A group of fine arts students has started a petition that asks the NECC board of trustees to provide space in the new technology building appropriate for the performing arts and the staging of other campus events.

Beginning its formation with the students of the dance studio, the petition has grown to include a broad range of more than 300

students, some with a vested interest, others simply supporting what they believe is in the best interest of the college.

“The petition makes students aware that they have input into decisions on campus,” Linda Desjardins, English Professor, said. “It makes them aware that a problem exists with our facilities and that their voices are sought out to be heard. The concept of petitioning like this builds community.”

According to Tim Eaton, a student involved with the petition, the range of students signing their name in support reaches beyond the anticipated response.

“Professors are helping pass the petition along and it is successfully gaining many signatures,” Eaton said. “Students from every

program major, from computers to physical education, are supporting this.

Psychology Professor Sandra DeVillis has been helping support the students in their drive for signatures. She said students indicating which sports team they played on signed one of the petitions.

“I thought that was terrific,” DeVillis said. “The support seems to be coming from many areas of the student body not just those interested in the arts.”

According to DeVillis students are only one of the constituency groups that will benefit from making an appropriate space available in the new building.

“I think the student’s request is moderate,” DeVillis said. “My per-

sonal hope would be for more. It was originally called the fine arts/technology building and I think students would like a bit of the balance restored.”

According to Eaton, the students hope to get an equal share of what the new building has to offer. They understand cost factors, but hope a compromise can be made. Instead of a separate theater, that was quoted to cost an additional 6 million, the request is for the building to include an extension of the multi-purpose conference area that allows for a stage.

Susan Sanders, English and performing arts professor said that supporting the capital campaign and increasing the amount of money raised so that a stage can

See STUDENTS, page 5

Save the last dance

EDITORIAL

We come to bury liberal arts not to praise them. The president has said the liberal arts are not theater. He has said the liberal arts are not dance. We have always taught theater and dance in liberal arts, but the president has said they are not, and the president is an honorable man.

Theater and dance bring many captives to liberal arts, their ransom has filled the coffers of literature and history, and does this in liberal arts seem insignificant? When students have wept over Shakespeare, the theater has rescued them in performance.

The superfluous should be made of smaller stuff.

But the president has said that it is not liberal arts, and the president is an honorable man.

You have all seen the performing arts presented to the "High-Tech Building," which the building has denied. If they were liberal arts surely they would be included, for the president has said liberal arts are at the core of everything we do, and sure the president is an honorable man.

As Mark Anthony also said, we speak not to disprove what the president has said, but to speak what we know.

If this course is pursued, those who will be graduated from this school will be too unprepared to meet the demands of the world, too undereducated to transfer to a school that will prepare them and too unenlightened to realize the difference.

When the president says if corporations demanded a theater there would be a theater, he is saying there will be education on corpo-

rate demand, to meet corporate need. Should the college look in the want ads to determine curriculum?

The High-Tech Building is not designed to meet student needs; it is designed to stock company warehouses with assembly line workers in technology. This will reverse the trend of science, instead of making robots from the model of man, we will make man into models of robots, squeezing his potential into a mold, and enslaving him to vocation.

It will be done under the guise of a liberal arts education—remember that is the core of the college—but a despot never said he would take away your freedom, he just changes the definition of what your freedom is.

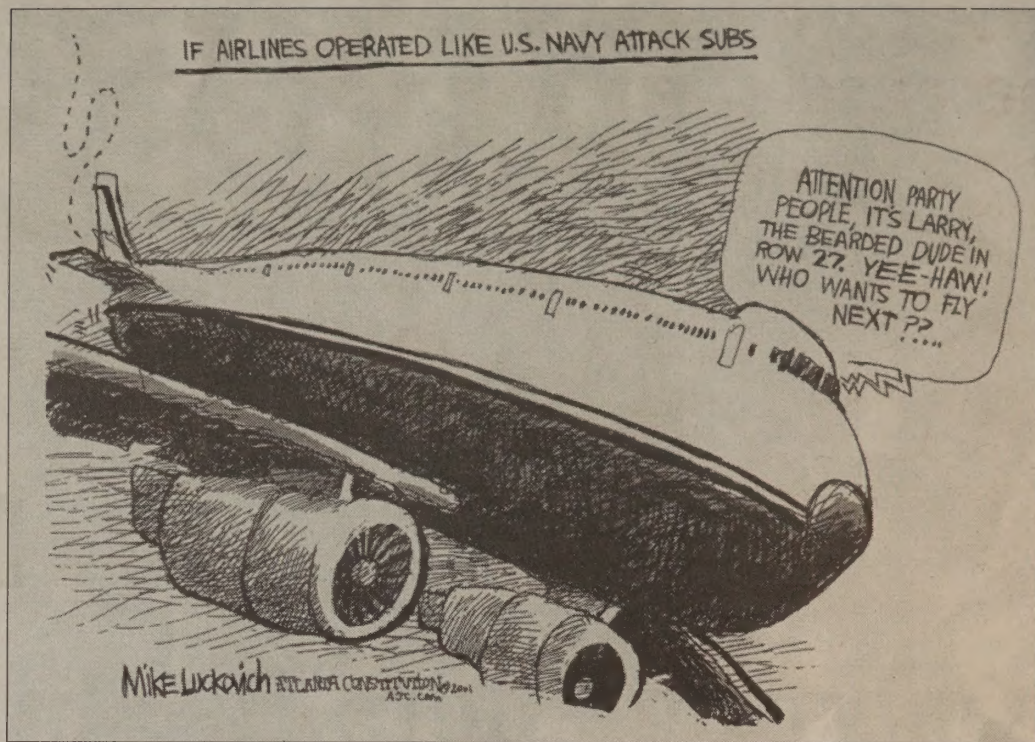
Despite numerous faculty comments to the contrary, despite the college curriculum including more than 10 liberal arts electives in theater and dance, the president has said he does not consider them liberal arts. The visual arts, he grudgingly concedes, can go either way, but the core of the college does not include performances of Shakespeare nor Moliere, the core of the college does not include the performance of the roots of literature, the roots of music; the roots of education. If that is the case then the core has become rotten.

In chasing the corporate dollar, the president is not meeting students' educational requirements, he is dictating students' needs. The liberal arts are not at the core of everything the college does, they are at best in the president's peripheral vision for the High-Tech Building.

NECC students have a rare opportunity to participate in this change. It is up to them to decide whether they will, but, for better or worse, they will be affected by it.

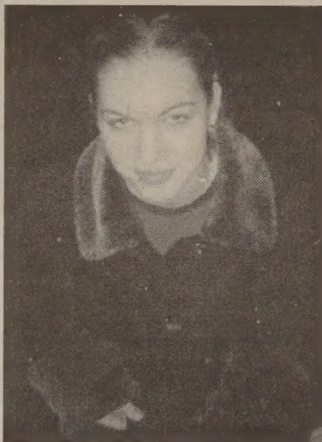
We are here because we realize our education will play a fundamental role in shaping us as individuals and in determining our careers in the future.

Students who want a liberal arts education or an education outside computers may want to take a closer look at this college and determine whether the people and policies entrusted with giving it to them, will



ROAMING REPORTER

Who is NECC President, state Governor, U.S. President?

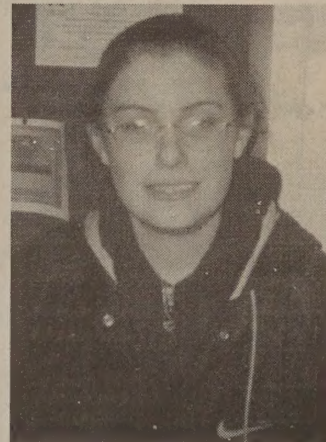


Lisa Coppola, Liberal Arts

"I don't know."

"I don't know."

"Bill Clinton? It's Bush, right?"



Kristie Danilecki, Liberal Arts

"I don't know."

"I forget."

"George Bush."



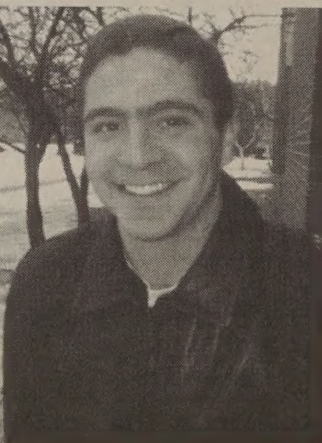
Erin Hardy, Liberal Arts

"I don't know who the president is."

"I live in N.H. Is it Shaheen?"

"George Bush."

Photos by O'Ryan Johnson

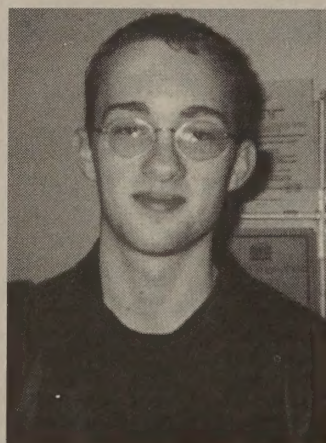


Bill Maffei, Undecided

"I don't know. This is my first semester."

"Paul Cellucci."

"George Bush."



Jonathan Ulrich, Business Administration

"I know this one...I forget."

"Paul Cellucci. Actually, it's Jane Swift."

"George Bush."



Sarah Wheeler, Journalism

"David Hartleb."

"Paul Cellucci."

"Bush, unfortunately."

NECC OBSERVER

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The path less taken, because of snow

◆ I do not own a 4-wheel-drive vehicle with a snowplow

COREY SIMPSON



NECC may be a metaphorical road leading students to their "future," but the literal roads that lead to NECC are treacherous in the winter months, and are more likely to lead us to the doctor's office.

But it's not just the roads that are a mess. It appears as though—each time there is a storm—a pathetic attempt is put forth to plow the parking lots and shovel the walkways.

I, like many other students attending this school, do not drive a 4-wheel-drive vehicle with a snowplow attached to the front. Nor do I wear or own a set of snowshoes. There are no metal spikes on the bottom of my sneakers to help me walk on ice, and I have no plans to attach chains to the tires of my

Honda Civic.

One—namely, a staff member of the school—might argue that sincere effort is put into keeping the journey to our classrooms safe, but I don't believe it. If this were true, why is it that the local grocery stores, strip malls, convenience stores and even video stores have clearer parking lots and safer walkways? The answer is simple: Effort.

It's the middle of the semester. The school has already gotten our money, why should they put effort into pleasing their customers? After all, schools are businesses, too.

The stores are trying to get customers, but the school already got your checks. . . they aren't too interested in impressing you at this point.

If students are expected to attend NECC during winter storms, the school should hire plows to clear the roads leading to the school. The town of Haverhill focuses on "main roads." The winding "back roads" leading to the entrance of NECC are never as safe as Route 125. And once one does arrive to the school and parks in a puddle of slush, great care must be taken to walk to the nearest door without slipping and breaking one's limbs and/or head on the

icy walkways.

President Hartleb is forever hesitant to close our school—even when the town of Haverhill and countless surrounding towns and universities have declared school closings—yet we are expected to deal with less-than-safe driving conditions to make it to a classroom where a class has most likely been cancelled anyway.

Even days after storms have hit, the walkways are still chaotic and dangerous. I find myself joining many other students in zigzag walking to avoid the puddles and ice, but it's not always possible. Many times I have had to endure wet feet for hours.

The solution to this problem is a simple one. More effort must be put into keeping the roads and

sidewalks to NECC safe. I highly doubt it takes much effort, either. IFCVS and Market Basket can handle properly plowing and shoveling their entrances—then NECC's president should not have much trouble finding a way to do the same.

Corey Simpson is the Observer's Staff Columnist. She can be reached at: observer@necc.mass.edu.



Reader questions nutritional health of vegan diet

To the Editor,

I was reading page four of the Observer, Feb. 28, and I came upon an article entitled, "Humus: It's what's for dinner." At first, I was delighted that all opinions were being published in the paper, and read on enthusiastically. However, some of what I read disturbed me.

Mainly, the sources chosen by the author, and the implication that a vegan diet leaves you with "a clearer conscience." What's more, the article claims that "[a vegan diet] is inarguably the best way to improve your overall health."

The author, Corey Simpson, quotes three sources: Dr. Benjamin Spock, "Diet for a New America" by John Robbins, and Vegetarian Times Magazine.

Dr. Spock, a world-renown pediatrician, was raised on a vegetarian diet until the age of 12. From that point on, he ate a typical high-fat American diet.

This includes meat. He only changed his diet at the age of 88, when he suffered a mild stroke. He then returned to his vegetarian roots, and undertook the arduous task of revising his magnum opus, "Baby and Child Care" and replacing the nutrition component to recommend a vegetarian diet, and no dairy for children under the age of two.

Clinical studies, as well as case history, on the other hand, has shown that his gene pool lent itself toward excellent health. When I started seeking for lit-

erature to support his claim of herbivorism over carnivorism (for lack of a better term), the only place I could find it was on vegetarian Web sites, and in vegetarian literature.

If it was clinically and/or scientifically proven that vegetarianism was a healthier lifestyle, then there would be some impartial proof of that.

Which brings us to her next source, being John Robbins. Not only is he a vegetarian author, but a renowned advocate for veganism. His profession is veganism.

Statistics change with each source, skewed to a thousand different perspectives. Her final source was the magazine called "Vegetarian Times." If there was ever a place where objectivity is to be questioned, this is it.

Another disturbing comment was that "a vegan diet [can] leave you with a clearer conscience." The implication here is obvious. Many vegetarians make the supposition that eating meat is an absolute wrong.

There are actually a few comments akin to this in the article: "further from cruelty," "kinder to animals."

I agree with her that vegetarianism is kinder to the earth. If human beings grew plants on the ground where cattle graze today, we could feed the world population two times over.

To suggest that if you eat meat you have a conscience that needs clearing, is to suggest it is in error to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To protect the rights of animals is a noble cause. However, if you take the life of a plant, is that not also murder? One might argue that plants do not feel pain, due to an undeveloped nervous system. The truth is that it is hypocritical.

In order to make an argument to the protection of life, one must protect life in all its form and splendor.

It is ridiculous to draw the line at mammals simply because they look more like us. Having a pair of eyes and ears does not give them anymore right to life than a living, breathing creature born without these things.

So if we cannot eat meat, since this infringes upon the rights of the animal, and we cannot eat plants, since this infringes upon the rights of the plant, what is left?

Humans beings must eat to survive, so what are we to do? Some say you should eat berries, since the the actual taking of the berry does not kill the plant itself.

I would definitely argue the health risks involved in such a diet. To quote Miss Simpson, we can't "go halfway."

We either must accept the taking of lives to continue our own survival, or we must rely totally on berries and the synthetic.

One final thought: Miss Simpson also states that a vegan

diet "is inarguably the best way to improve your overall health." Corissa Whedon, a representative I spoke to from the Food and Drug Administration, says that the FDA has always stood by the same premise—that the best way to improve overall health is through a balanced diet, composed of all the food groups, and exercise programs proportionate to the indi-

vidual. Is veganism wrong? No. Was Miss Simpson wrong? No, of course not.

The objective of the article was to inform people, and found "if you do a little research of your own."

There were gaps in the facts, and I am sure the last thing Miss Simpson wanted to do was to mislead her readers.

Respectfully yours,
Tim Carter

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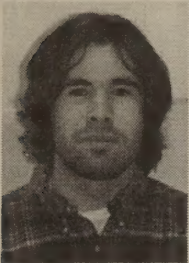
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Lessons learned in Journalism 101 elude professionals

◆ *The Boston Globe* apologizes for mistake in Dartmouth coverage

ED HUDSON



One of the first lessons I learned as a journalism student at NECC is that a source may ask to go "on-background" or "off-the-record." This type of source cannot be named in a reporter's copy but may be described by a general term such as "official."

I also learned that some publications insist that all material be attributed to a named source. Why? Because on-background or off-the-record information poses problems. Problems that even our prestigious Boston Globe recently encountered.

Some publications will use non-attributed information when the reporter is sure the material

is reliable. That was clearly the case in the Feb. 16 edition of *The Boston Globe*, in which a story written by staff members Mitchell Zuckoff and Shelley Murphy was plastered on page one charging that the killings of Dartmouth College professors Half and Suzanne Zantop were crimes of passion resulting from an adulterous love affair. The story was based on information provided to the two *Globe* reporters a day earlier by three law-enforcement officials involved in the investigation. And all three officials spoke on the condition of anonymity.

However, in incredibly bad timing for the *Globe*, investigators obtained arrest warrants charging suspects Robert Tulloch and James Parker that same day with two counts of first degree murder. Soon after, the two Vermont teenagers prepared to face prosecution for the slaying of the two professors. The *Globe's* sources then admitted their theory of an extramarital affair was incorrect, and a glaring front page apology was issued by the *Globe's* editor, which read: "To Our Readers."

The *Globe* did this because

when mistakes are made, corrections follow so that information is accurate. I learned that in my first class of Journalism last semester. These embarrassing corrections occur most often when a reporter is chasing the biggest stories that are the most competitive, because the reporter must break his information quickly. And it has been said that speed is accuracy's enemy. Reporters can become anxious not to be out-reported by the competition, and they may produce unsourced and poorly-sourced pieces lacking thorough reporting.

Oddly, in the Jan. 8 edition of "Editor and Publisher," in an article written by Bill Kirtz entitled: "All Aboard the Narrative Train," Zuckoff, a Pulitzer Prize feature-writing finalist and co-author of the false report by the *Globe*, said he tells sources they're always "on the record."

He is quoted as saying, "We report what we see and we report what we know." But it is clear that Zuckoff has contradicted himself in the *Globe's* recent blunder. I suppose even an American Society of Editors award winner such as Zuckoff

can sometimes be tempted to settle for the imprecise rather than the exact.

Perhaps this reporter's hypocrisy is the very reason why the Committee of Concerned Journalists has said a news culture is emerging that is increasingly involved with disseminating information, rather than gathering it.

I have learned that a reporter who follows this trend, does so dangerously, teetering on the brink of misleading readers. Per-

haps mistakes such as the *Globe's* are the reason *The New York Times* tells its staff: We do not want to let unidentified sources (like "law enforcement officials") use us to circulate charges against identified people when they provide no named complaints or other verifiable evidence.

In my first year as a journalism student I learned that a reporter's job is to put sources on the record, by name. Readers trust such a report. The lesson for reporters is clear.

Celebrating the foundation of knowledge: Reading

LUISA MEJIA



Most of us grew up listening to or reading the wonderful stories of Dr. Seuss and his "Cat in the Hat." Dr. Seuss' characters were always funny and odd, in fact I must confess that I was a terrified by some of the characters. It took me a while to be able to read his stories without feeling scared.

But the "Cat in the Hat" is definitely a character that I will always remember. I think there are very few people that have not at least once read "The Cat in the Hat" and or "Green Eggs and Ham."

Dr. Seuss and his books have withstood the passage of time and can still be quoted by many children; it is very rare to find a child that does not recognize Dr. Seuss or "The Cat in the Hat."

Even with all the technology and all the entertainment options that are offered to children these days, there is nothing that could be

compared to the wonderful experience of reading a book. Reading is immensely important; it's a foundation for acquiring other knowledge.

But with so much information bombarding our children, the love for reading has been given a relatively low degree of importance.

As a way of addressing this issue several literacy associations and non-profit organizations throughout the country combined efforts to plan activities and events that will increase interest in literacy and be fun and rewarding for the youngsters.

A literacy event planned this year was the celebration of Dr. Seuss' 97th anniversary.

This event received a lot of attention around the country not only because it was well-deserved recognition for the author, Theodor Seuss Geisel of Springfield, Mass., but because it provided a wonderful opportunity to promote literacy among children.

As a way of joining the nationwide "Read Aloud Day," on March 8, NECC invited 150 school children from elementary schools in Haverhill, Lawrence and Amesbury to our campus for a day of games and, of course, reading.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bookstore apologizes for service, seeks more student employees

To the Editor:

The NECC Bookstore would like to respond to a letter in the Feb. 14 issue ("More customer service needed at NECC bookstore").

Let me first apologize to the student who asked for help and was inconvenienced. We know that you speak for more than yourself, too. Though we strive for excellent customer service, there are times when we fall short. The first week of class is always a very challenging period for the bookstore.

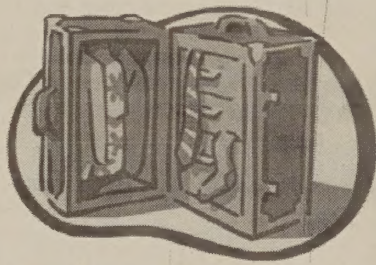
Sadly, there are occasions where we cannot accommodate every request. Normally, our cashier, who apparently took the call, would either investigate your question, or ask for assistance from a clerk on the sales floor. What they should not have done is tell you that you "HAVE to come in and

check for yourself." We have since trained our cashiers on how to respond to customer requests on the phone, noting that "we can't leave the register" is a grossly insufficient reason for not helping someone.

Your solution seems simple and I admit would go a long way to preventing problems. However, we have a very hard time attracting students to work for the bookstore, despite receiving a 20 percent discount on textbooks and a 35 percent discount on other items.

Every semester for the past four years we have had to turn to a temp agency for help. Believe me, we would rather hire a student.

Thank you,
Bryan Johnson
Bookstore Manager



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Some arts not liberal enough for president

◆ continued from page 1

NECC is the only opportunity many students have to encounter the arts, she said, and as a teacher, "We need the support of the performing arts as grist for the mill."

She agreed with Hartleb's point that, technically, the performance of dance and theater are not part of the liberal arts.

Bellairs said a liberal arts curriculum includes the study of theater and dance, but, she said, "He must understand the performing arts are an integral part of the whole college experience, no matter how they are classified." From performance "you gain an appreciation for the arts you don't find out by reading text books."

Barlas agreed: "I teach theater and literature on campus; these arts must be performed, they must be performed to be appreciated. How can you teach music, with out performing it? How can you talk about a play without seeing it performed?" He said, "Imagine talking about a film and then not showing the film."

Sandra DeVellis, professor of psychology, said determining the scope of liberal arts should be inclusive, not exclusive.

"We're judged more by what we include," she said.

In a later conversation, Hartleb responded to faculty comments, saying they were free to disagree with him.

In a college community, he said,

people ought to feel they can have open discourse on these ideas. In defining liberal arts, he said, "It's not a simple subject. It's a matter of concepts, it's a matter of words."

During the March 2 coffee hour with students, Hartleb said the new High-Tech Building, currently in the fund raising stages, is being built in response to student needs and corporate needs.

Employers, he said, are constantly seeking people trained in computers and the college is working to meet that demand.

This comment also drew sharp disagreement from faculty members.

Barlas said, "What good is it to give people jobs if they're not moral, thinking people?"

He said the foundation of a liberal arts education is to create that kind of rounded person.

Barlas said liberal arts produce "a person who thinks in many different ways; they are a source of creativity." He said technology certificates will not broaden students in that fashion.

The president said 9,000 people were trained at NECC in non-credit, technology geared, corporate sponsored courses last year. He said that is within the scope of the college's ethos in providing an educated work pool for the local community.

He said if corporations were calling him asking for people in the theater, then one would be built.

Sanders called the comment ludicrous.

"People go into the performing arts to build themselves, because they have a calling, not because business needs drones," she said.

Mawhinney said NECC is "not just a college for workforce training."

"If the performing arts are not supported, it will not kill the students' passion for the arts," she said, but added that NECC is short changing students if the college does not give them opportunities within the arts.

Bellairs said of Hartleb's position: "We'd like to know if he's firmly on the side of the performing arts."

Students: performance stage is needed on campus

◆ continued from page 1

be included in the conference area could best assist the cause.

Sanders joined Priscilla Bellairs, English professor, in a meeting on Jan. 31 with President Hartleb and Vice President Jean Poth, to discuss the costs of a theater. According to Sanders, Hartleb stated at the meeting that if people wanted to earmark their contributions toward the inclusion of a stage in the conference

area, they are more than welcome to do so.

"While it is important that all fundraising be done through Jean Poth's office, it is also important that everyone knows that their contribution can be designated to go to the stage," Sanders said.

According to Eaton, the main purpose of the petition is to show that students in all majors and faculty from all departments see the need for this. Eaton said that a permanent stage make sense to

the college, and will benefit more than the theater department.

The small dance studio compromises the practice and performance of the dancers. Eaton said there are many negative situations that this stage could rectify.

"I am highly interested in the arts, inspiring for film," Eaton said. "This is where it all starts."

Arthur Barlas, history and government professor said the petition is very significant. According to Barlas, local and state news

outlets have picked up similar efforts in the past.

"Students are the heart of the college and their concerns must be listened to by all those who serve them, particularly administrators and faculty," Barlas said.

Barlas said he hopes they expand their drive to build alliances with other groups on and off campus and perhaps include local and state politicians.

"Students who are organiz-

ing this petition drive are truly receiving an education on political activism. In my book they are heroes."

According to Eaton the petitions will be presented to the board of trustees during the first week of April. Barlas thinks the petition will definitely have an impact on decisions made by President Hartleb.

"I think the president severely underestimates the support of this," Barlas said.

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Letters from Liverpool

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By ZOE J. GRIFFITHS

Contributing Reporter from Abroad

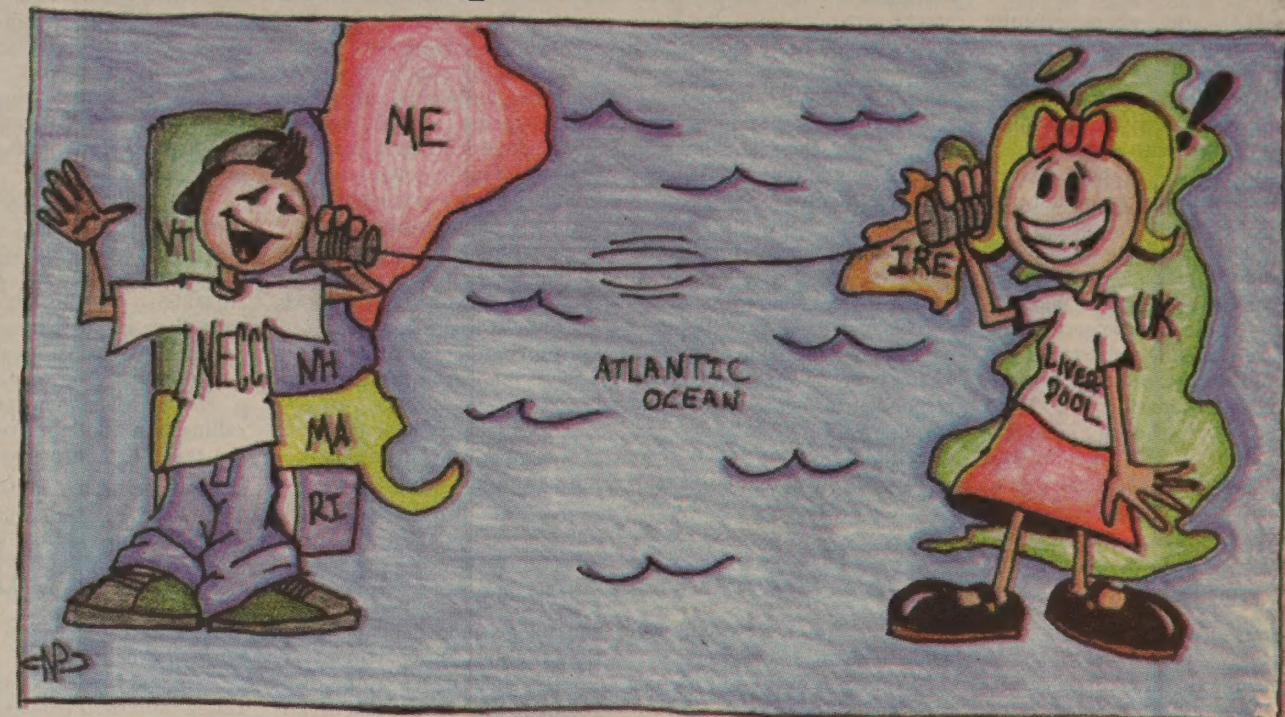
Hailed as the "Revolutionary New Way To Workout," the effects of "group indoor cycling," or SPINNING, are advertised as "Toning legs, firming bottoms and conditioning backs, chests and arms." All this, and the leaflet clearly states that this non-impact aerobic toning workout, suitable for both sexes, is "As Easy As Riding a Bike!"

Fitness freaks may well be drawn by the technical nature of the specially developed "bike" with its one 44-pound steel wheel, over which you exert independent control of the level at which you want to workout, using a small dial with which you can increase or decrease the level of "resistance" in the wheel. (Essentially, how hard it is to turn the pedals round, or for those of us with greater imaginations, how steep the hill is that you are climbing.)

Serious sportsmen and women however, may well be turned off by the flashy disco-lighting, the loud dance music, and the enthusiastic, "fully qualified" microphoned instructor who will, for some, create an atmosphere all too resonant of a 1980s aerobics class.

Spinning is certainly taking off as the new fitness phenomenon in the UK. In Liverpool, there are at least five separate sports centres offering several classes each day, and they are frequently fully booked. Discount prices for students mean that they are very popular with those attending one of the four institutes of higher education in the city.

Participants adjust the Spinner to their height and initial speed, strap their feet into the pedals and prepare themselves for



Nick Patrie illustration

what, despite the persuasive literature on the subject, is a tough test of stamina and endurance.

Following the instructor's commands involving the adding or removing of resistance, increasing or decreasing of speed, Spinners work out solidly for 45 minutes using a variety of cycling positions (sitting, standing, flat-backed, hovering), three different handlebar positions and a combination of upper-body strengthening workouts resembling press-ups whilst cycling. Different instructors vary the routine and the soundtrack, so the class is rarely monotonous.

"Despite being hard work, it is actually fun, the music is cool, and you get a great sense of achievement after you finish a class. It's very satisfying and I can definitely feel that my fitness levels have improved

since I started," says history student Eleanor, 20, who has been Spinning since January.

"It is tough at first, but it's the same for all beginners. If you persevere with it you'll actually feel the benefits quite quickly. It's less embarrassing than those Aerobics classes, and you really feel like you've done a proper work-out by the end of a Spinning class, rather than just jumped around a room with a load of other women," says Helen, a final year geography student.

Instructor Lorraine McAvoy can certainly vouch for the benefits she has gained from the sport. "In two years I've lost over 2 and a half stone, and I've kept the weight off." In addition, Lorraine admits she used to suffer from frequent asthma attacks, and although Spinning has not cured the condition, she has not had an attack in two years.

Everyone agrees that it is the music and

the general atmosphere that gives Spinning the edge over other kinds of exercise class. Lorraine adds, "It's a bit of a party atmosphere, with the lights and everything, and the music is great. It can set you up for a night out!"

Walking away after my first session, sweating, out-of-breath, and suffering from baby-giraffe-legs syndrome, I have to admit that a night out was the last thing I could think about. However, a few months later, I also have to agree that there is a strange addictive pull to the sport, and I would recommend anyone who enjoys a physical challenge to follow the instructions on the posters and "Get on your bike!"

Letters from Liverpool will appear regularly in the Observer as part of an article exchange arrangement.

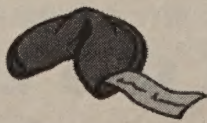
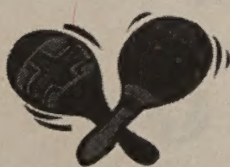
International Festival

Sport & Fitness
Center Lobby
Haverhill Campus

Northern Essex Community
College students, faculty and staff share their
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Experience food, music and dance
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FRIDAY, MARCH 30

NOON-1:00



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WHEN?

Weds, March 21, 12-1:30

WHERE? Cafeteria, Haverhill Campus

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It is now time to submit your
Petition to Graduate



Your application should be
submitted to the Registrar's
Office no later than
March 31st for the May 19th
graduation ceremony
(No exceptions)

Man reports he was mugged in parking lot B of Haverhill campus, police are investigating

◆ *Victim claims two men assaulted him in parking lot and took his wallet*

Two unarmed suspects robbed a man who was exiting parking lot "B" of the Haverhill campus on March 7, according to a Haverhill police report.

The victim, 45-year-old Marc Lyonnais of Bradford, told police his wallet was taken by use of physical force at approximately 5:50 p.m.

According to the report, Lyonnais said

he was driving out of the lot when he observed two males on the side of the road. One of the suspects pointed to his vehicle. Lyonnais stopped his car and got out. He was looking at his vehicle when one of the men grabbed him by his jacket, demanding his wallet, he said.

According to the report, one suspect held Lyonnais, while the other took his wallet. The victim was pushed aside and the two suspects fled the scene. The wallet contained \$10 in cash, one credit card and a AAA card. Lyonnais told police he then drove around the

campus looking for the suspects. He said he found his wallet empty on the side of the road.

The suspects were both described as white males, approximately 30 years old. One was approximately 5-feet-9 inches, with a slim build, long blond hair with a ponytail, wearing blue jeans and a blue jean jacket. The second man was approximately 5-feet-10 inches, with a slim build, wearing a black stocking cap, blue jean and a blue jean jacket.

According to Haverhill police, the incident is under investigation.

Alumni Association plans March 31 trip to Foxwoods casino

NECC's Alumni Association has announced it is sponsoring a March 31 trip to Foxwoods Resort and Casino.

The trip costs \$25 per person and includes round-trip motor coach transportation and a \$20 bonus package containing materials for gambling at the casino (\$10 in Keno and a \$10 match play for any card game.)

The Foxwoods resort has five casinos, 24 restaurants and many specialty shops.

The bus will leave the NECC Haverhill campus at 7:30 a.m. and return between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Space is limited. For reservations, call Libby Jensen in the alumni office at 556-3621.

NECC set for emergency

◆ *Response plan gives students and faculty step-by-step instruction.*

By JAMIE ROY
Contributing Reporter

What if an emergency happened on campus?

That is the question that the NECC administration asked when they recently developed an Emergency Response Plan.

It is "a reference tool designed to help you respond calmly, effectively and safely to a NECC campus emergency."

The response plan gives students and faculty a step-by-step instruction on how to deal with and report an emergency on campus.

In 1999 and 2000, NECC studied and compiled the emergency response plans of 14 community colleges. From this information, NECC administrators created a plan for the college so students and faculty can have a better understanding of what to do in an emergency.

"In every class and office there is a booklet with all the information," said Vice President of Administration Mark Andrews. "Currently, the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses meet with the town police and fire officials to be prepared if anything should happen."

The first step, according to the Web site of the NECC Emergency Response Plan, is: Access whether a fire, a hazardous materials emergency or other type of potentially life-threatening environment exists. If so, evacuate the area. Pull the nearest fire alarm if a fire is burning or other people in the surrounding area need immediate alert.

The second step, if ambulance, fire or police services are needed, is to immediately call 911.

The third step, depending upon the location of the emergency, is to call the local campus security office. Haverhill Campus Security is extension 2222, Lawrence Franklin Street Campus is extension 7499 and Lawrence Amesbury Street is extension 7699.

The plan dictates that these campus numbers be called whether or not 911 was called.

If phones are down, the plan says, send a "runner" to the Campus Security office in the Spurr Building on the first floor near the elevator.

The Web site also provides information about what to do in community disasters, such as fires, floods or hurricanes and what to do in bomb threats.

Board of Higher Ed now has student position

By KATE MURRAY
Contributing Reporter

The position of student member of the Board of Higher Education has been established by the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 4. The student member will be a full and equal member of the Board of Higher Education in all aspects except for their abbreviated term.

Applications are now being accepted, although all applications must be post-

marked by March 30, 2001.

Applicants must submit a thorough application and will be interviewed to show understanding of the Board of Higher Education and the student member position.

The Governor of Massachusetts will select the student member from recommendations submitted by the Student Advisory Committee (SAC).

Questions about applying to be the student member can be directed to Clantha Carrigan McCurdy at (617) 727-1205.

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UMass Lowell Transfer Counselors are coming to NECC!

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Lawrence March 26, May 2
All visits are from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For more information, to learn about your transfer options, or to schedule a visit, call UMass Lowell at 978/934-3931.



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TUITION AID AVAILABLE

Study: High percentage of college women stalked

◆ **Victims must remain firm and follow their gut instinct**

By JENA BAUER

Badger Herald (U. Wisconsin)

MADISON, Wis. (U-WIRE) — Thirteen percent of college-aged women are stalked at U.S. universities yearly, according to a report recently released by the U.S. Justice Department.

This figure, indicative of 1996-1997 rates, is significantly higher than previous studies have indicated.

The study indicates that the chance of being stalked on a college campus is higher because of interactions among the large variety of people who attend universities.

U.S. crime statistics state that, in a lifetime, one in 12 women and one in 45 men

is expected to fall prey to a stalker.

Stalking can have different definitions. Some indicators include being repeatedly followed, phoned, written, e-mailed or watched.

Stalking consists of a person communicating with another person in a manner that appears obsessive and makes the victim feel that his or her safety is at risk.

"Stalking is hard to deal with," said Lindsey Dickenson, publicity coordinator for the Campus Women's Center at the University of Wisconsin. "The laws are not as strong as they could be and it is not always considered a crime."

Stalking often begins as a result of rejection. Feelings of rage from abandonment and rejection provoke a stalker to look for control and revenge. The majority of victims are stalked by people they have had relationships with, not complete strangers.

A stalker may fall into one of three general categories: intimate partner stalk-

ers, delusional stalkers and vengeful stalkers.

An intimate partner stalker is described as an individual who refuses to let go of a past relationship.

"The separation between people ignites it," Dickenson said. "[The stalker thinks] 'If I pursue [the relationship], it will be OK.'"

A delusional stalker is a predator who has limited, if any, interaction with his target. He may also be diagnosed with mental illnesses.

A stalker is considered to be more mentally disturbed if he has no relationship to the victim before the stalking begins. This type of stalker is generally the most persistent.

Lastly, the vengeful stalker is one who becomes angry with his victims and uses stalking as a response to some minor or concocted incident. Politicians are often victims of this type of criminal action.

Regardless of the type of stalker, all

stalkers possess an unhealthy attachment to another person.

Even so, experts say it is important for the victim to remain firm in his or her desire to keep distance from the stalker.

A victim should clearly say "no" and avoid all contact. By trying to be nice and letting a predator down easy, the victim may actually be encouraging the person to pursue them further.

"Give no mixed messages, no message that conveys you are softening up," said Bob McGrath, director of the University Counseling Center.

"The [stalker] will believe it is a go-ahead, a clue this person is warming up."

Most importantly, experts say, if you feel you are the victim of a stalker, do not doubt yourself.

"People should follow their gut instinct," Dickenson said. "If someone feels threatened, make a record of the encounters and incidents."

School newspapers take heat for slavery advertisement

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona's two largest college newspapers are taking opposing stances after running a controversial advertisement arguing against the payment of reparations for slavery.

Both Arizona State University's State Press and the University of Arizona's Daily Wildcat ran the ad Friday, but the State Press said it will apologize while the Daily Wildcat stands by its decision.

The author of the full-page ad is David Horowitz, the editor in chief of FrontPageMagazine.com and president of the Center for Study of Popular Culture, based in Los Angeles. He has sent the ad,

entitled "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Slavery Is a Bad Idea—and Racist Too," to at least 35 college campuses across the country, engendering heated reaction at the schools whose newspapers have decided to use it.

The Daily Californian, the newspaper at the University of California at Berkeley, issued a front-page apology for running the spot, angered that it became an "inadvertent vehicle for bigotry."

Now the State Press at ASU will follow suit, claiming it was a mistake to run the ad because it violated the newspaper's policy of using "one-sided" arguments, adviser

Bruce Itule said.

Kathy Walsh, ad manager for the State Press, said the newspaper has "the right to reject any advertisement we choose if we believe it will offend a significant portion of our community." She said it was an "unfortunate oversight" and that she and Itule felt obligated to apologize for content that might be deemed offensive.

"I don't think it's a free speech issue," Itule added.

But at the Daily Wildcat, that's exactly what its editor-in-chief believes it is. Kevin Clerici said the ad does not violate newspaper guidelines and is therefore suitable for

its pages.

"This doesn't fall into the same category as Holocaust deniers," he said. "(Horowitz) isn't denying that slavery took place or that it was a bad thing. He is arguing about whether reparations are justified."

The arguments made in the advertisement question why a large group of people who had little connection to slavery should financially compensate blacks. While Clerici said he doesn't necessarily support the idea, it wasn't his place to justify its merits.

"It's a debatable point, but our readers are intelligent enough to realize it's just one man's opinion," he said.

Going Abroad?

Thinking about making some quick money?
Think again!

If someone offers you a free vacation and a big chunk of cash just for bringing back a suitcase or package no questions asked—Remember:

- Drug laws abroad are very strict.
- When you leave the U.S., you leave our laws behind.
- The police are waiting for you.
- The police are watching for American tourists carrying drugs.
- You will not be released on bail.
- You will be thrown in a crowded jail cell.
- You will not have access to a modern shower or toilet.
- You will be given food that is not fit to eat.
- When sick or injured, you may not get adequate medical care.
- You will not see your loved ones—your parents, your children, your friends—for a long, long time.
- You will be fined thousands of dollars.
- You will stay in jail for years and years.

You will be blamed for anything in your suitcase, no matter who puts it there.
Ignorance is no excuse. If it's in your suitcase, it's your crime, and you will do the time.

This message is brought to you by the U.S. Department of State

Got Final Four tickets? Not likely

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NCAA men's college basketball Final Four may be coming here, but that doesn't mean the Metrodome will be teeming with regular Minnesotans when it's time to crown a national champion.

By the end of March, most of the 46,000 seats in the Metrodome will be long gone — sold to the powerful and connected.

"It's the hottest ticket for any sporting event in America with the possible exception of the Masters" golf tournament, said Bill Lester, executive director of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission.

The general public, including Minnesota residents, did have a chance at seats last summer. About 113,000 fans paid \$2 each to enter the random drawing for 10,000 tickets.

Because of the NCAA's national lottery for tickets, almost all of the spectators at the Final Four are tourists; 90 percent of ticket-holders will be visiting the Dome for the first time.

The NCAA also has set aside 18,000 tickets to be divided evenly among the four teams that make it into the semifinals. Those games will be played March 31, with the winners meeting in the championship

game April 2.

At the University of Minnesota, which is serving as the host institution, many administrators and donors got a shot at the school's allocation of 1,500 tickets.

The Twin Cities Organizing Committee, which was formed to coordinate the Final Four event, got about 5,600 tickets.

In addition, 4,000 tickets went to NCAA schools across the country for presidents and athletic directors, and 4,000 went to the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which is holding its annual convention here on the same weekend.

The balance, about 5,000, went to the NCAA, which sells the tickets to its corporate sponsors, CBS Sports and other media. For all the groups with access to tickets, one thing is consistent: Nobody gets them free.

At face value, tickets that include all three games go for \$120, \$140 or \$160 depending on location. Already tickets are being sold on the Internet for up to \$680 each.

While it's illegal to sell tickets in Minnesota for more than face value, ticket brokers say those willing to look around — and pay from \$400 to \$9,000 per seat — could wind up with tickets.

Residence hall sprinkler set off by hanger

NELSONVILLE, Ohio (AP) — A Hocking College student was in hot water and a lot of his fellow dormitory residents were wet after he accidentally set off the building's sprinkler system.

Nelsonville firefighters said the student had hung a shirt from a sprinkler valve on the ceiling of his room in Summit Hall while steaming a shirt. They said he set off the sprinkler while trying to remove the

clothes hanger.

Firefighter Dean Russell said about 1,500 gallons of water was released. About 100 people had to be evacuated from the building, and 13 rooms had about 11/2 inches of water on the floors.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000. No one was injured.

Hocking College police said they were deciding whether charges would be filed.

New works premiere at ECMP performance

◆ ECMP hopes for donors to help expand musical arts in the Merrimack Valley

By BARBARA POLLETTA
Editor

A performance by the Essex Chamber Music Players kicked off the spring liberal arts celebration March 4, in the Bentley Library conference center.

The program titled, "Romantic Songs of Love" included the works of Handel, Mozart, Schubert, and Strauss, as well as contemporary composers.

Michael Finegold, professor of music at NECC and founder of ECMP, opened the performance with words of thanks to the community and students.

"We are building an infrastructure to support this endeavor," Finegold said. "We wish to reach out to the community, to broaden our audience and of course fill up even more seats."

Finegold is a flutist who has studied with Doriot Dwyer, former principle flutist for the Boston Symphony. He also has studied with flutist Samuel Baron and Thomas Nyfenger as a graduate student working on his Masters of Music and Masters of Musical Arts degrees at the Yale University School of Music. His talent and experience shines brilliantly through in this perfectly matched ensemble of players.

Among the compositions were the works of Jim Windel Brown, a professor at NECC since 1971. A self-taught composer, many of Brown's compositions have been performed locally as well as in Boston, at Symphony Hall. At Finegold's suggestion, Brown added the words of poet Reinhold Johannes Kaebitzsch, and Phil Sittnick, English and literature professor, to his works.



Barbara Polletta photo

TREASURES OF PAST AND PRESENT: Priscilla Gale, soprano, performs with Michael Finegold, flutist and artistic director.

"One of the ideas I had was capturing the idea of temperature," Brown said. "I wanted the music to sound very cold. The importance is on how the music relates to the words by making images that enhances the words."

Brown describes his works as neo-impressionism. He wishes his music to paint a picture for the listener, to let their imagination take over what they see when they listen.

"It does not sound like typical impressionist music," Brown said. "What I want is impressionism in a broad sense, painting images with music."

Priscilla Gale, soprano for ECMP, has extensive operatic experiences. Finegold found her through a referral from a friend who is a world class composer.

"I hold Priscilla in the highest regard," Finegold said. "It is a big plus to have her as

a part of our group of players."

The talent of David Pihl completes the trio of players. Pihl has taught piano at NECC, and has performed with the Internaber Music under Elly Ameling in Germany. He made a recent debut recording with the Moravian Symphony under the direction of Vit Mitska.

The works of Mitch Hampton completed the program. Hampton is a composer whose influences range from Gershwin and Stavinsky to Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. He dedicates his composition, "Red Nostalgia, Red Reflection" to the struggles for economic and social injustice, past and present. He describes this work as a socialist piece, which was musically inspired by Latin American composers, and his love of Jazz.

Finegold has plans to expand his group of players in the future, and hopes to bring

more guest musicians from around the region. He said that this performance went especially well and he is already making plans for the next performance in the fall.

"I think the performance went beautifully, and was well received," Finegold said. "All the composers were pleased with the performance of their work. We premiered three new works in this performance and that is a major accomplishment especially for a singer."

The ECMP has a donation program set up in which the community can become involved in supporting their growth. Future plans include five concerts per year with a small chamber orchestra of nine musicians and one conductor. To donate or for further information contact Finegold at mfinegold@necc.mass.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 19

11:00 a.m. Latino Cooking Demonstration. Location: Lawrence Atrium, Lawrence.

Noon. The Heart Aroused. Video and staff and faculty discussion on the importance of sustaining and nurturing our humanity and souls in our work lives. Facilitated by Barbara Stachniewicz and George Medelinskas. Location: The Teaching and Learning Center (B-136), Haverhill.

1:00 p.m. Machiavelli and Modern Leadership symposium. Location: Bentley Library Conference Area, Haverhill.

MARCH 21

Noon. Comedian P.J. Thibodeau. Location: Cafeteria, Haverhill.

MARCH 22

Noon. Lunch Discussion Series. Inspirational readings, meanings and perceptions. Location: President's Dining Room (next to cafeteria), Haverhill.

MARCH 23

Noon. International Festival. Food, music and dance from around the world. Location: Lawrence Atrium, Lawrence.

MARCH 26

11:00 a.m. Latino Cooking Demonstration. Location: Sports & Fitness Center, Haverhill.

7:00 p.m. Birdsong. Community of readers discussion. Location: Bentley Library Conference Area, Haverhill.

MARCH 30

8:00 p.m. The Coffee Shop. Student drama production. Location: Top Notch Theater, Haverhill.

MARCH 31

7:30 a.m. Alumni Association Trip to Foxwoods Casino. For info call 556-3621.

8:00 p.m. The Coffee Shop. Student drama production. Location: Top Notch Theater, Haverhill.

Lots of gossip at Top Notch's performance of 'The Coffee Shop'

◆ Performances will run March 30 through April 7

By SARAH WHEELER
Contributing Reporter

The Top Notch Players' production of "The Coffee Shop" will open March 30 and run through April 7.

The play was written by Carlo Goldoni, known as the Shakespeare of Venice, in 1750. Although the version to be performed at NECC was adapted by the troupe's adviser Susan Sanders, it is basically the same.

The play is about the lives of characters who frequent a coffee shop. Sanders compares it to the TV show "Cheers." The main character, Don Martizo, lives on gossip and tells stories about everyone around the shop.

Sanders said she feels pleased by how the play is coming along. The cast consists of actors with mixed experience. For some, it is their first play; for others, the tenth.

The cast, which includes a variety of majors ranging from Early Childhood to Criminal Justice, has a demanding schedule. Almost all the actors have full-time jobs and a full course load, which makes the rehearsal times difficult to schedule.

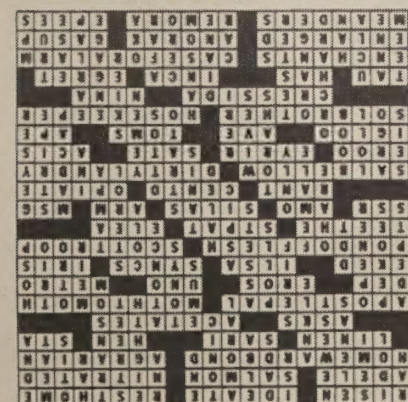
The play features a complex set and costumes that are historically correct. Most of the costumes are handmade by Cheri

Thinstrom.

Sanders urges more students to join in on The Top Notch Players' next performance. Auditions will be held April 2, at 6 p.m. The next performance will be all one act plays directed by students.

The cost for admission to "The Coffee Shop" is \$5 general and \$4 student admission.

Crossword puzzle answers



Haverhill Photo



- Developing supplies
- B & W film
- B & W paper
- Developing tanks
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HOROSCOPES BY MISS ANNA

Aries: change is in the air

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Change is in the air. Allow old habits and emotions to be swept away and you'll be surprised how fast new and exciting situations will materialize. Chances are you've been trying to work at things alone, stop and get feedback from others.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) Your physical energy will abound. Use this energy well and include others in the activities, possibly children. Tie up loose ends and expect something in the workplace to come to a head. You have a lot to share with those around you.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) There is someone close to you in desperate need of financial help. Look around you closely, this individual may not be obvious. Feelings of passion will follow you. Direct this fiery energy in a positive way. It is a good time to express yourself romantically.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) Try to maintain your sunny spirit in the face of seemingly depressing circumstances. Do what you can and try to stop worrying. You can do much to change the situations you find yourself in. Do your best to act fairly, for money matters are coming to a head.

LEO: (July 24 - Aug. 23) An existing relationship will flourish if you trust the other person completely. There is a real possibility for a new and intense love. Your spark of enthusiasm brings out the best in those around you. This opportunity could pave the way to more responsibility.

VIRGO: (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23) You are doing well in your career choice, but know you could be doing better if given the chance. Opportunity for advancement is right around the corner. Be sure you can make good on your promises. There is an introspective friend who needs your emotional support.

LIBRA: (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Turmoil seems to be everywhere. Just remember a great deal of criticism can be delivered effectively with a smile. It will make more sense to keep people on your side if you can channel your rage in a more direct way. Joy could be just as habit forming as pessimism is.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may have the opportunity to invest in a creative enterprise with unexpected money coming from a family member who is looking out for your best interests. If a relationship is starting to feel a little stagnant, try to find ways to increase vitality, or get out.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) It's time to take a lead from an ambitious acquaintance, and take your shot at fame and fortune. Your love life may be a bit rocky, so try to accentuate the positive. It's time to sew up any loose ends, leaving no stone unturned as you finish up.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Changes do not come easy, but those that may occur in your personal life will probably be more excepted than most. Quiet time with family will give you the opportunity to catch up with others lives. When you put your mind to it, you can accomplish what you want.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) You seem to have a choice of paths to take. Make sure you are not achieving success at the cost of others. Such ambition will no doubt reap rewards you may not wish for. It feels as if you are running around in circles; everything does not have to be done by the book.

PISCES: (Feb. 20 - March 20) If you are getting too attached, you are setting yourself up for disappointment. Live in the here and now, tomorrow will take care of itself. Much of what you have been striving for is within your grasp, but you may have to count on others to help you reach that goal.

The return of the '80s isn't as bad as you think

◆ The ugliest decade in the 20th century makes a comeback

By NICK PATRIE

Arts Editor

In modern times, 2001, there seems to be an urge to look back on the past. Our simple overly convenient environments, run by computers, ruled by the need for a faster Internet connection, tinier cell phones, and more natural food for the most synthetic population this world has seen since its beginning.

Why do I rant? Because I have been noticing an influx of ancient times into modern culture. Ancient times some would like to leave in the past: tight rolled jeans, big teased bangs and neon socks. The 80s, the only decade that could make the 70s look good.

Comedy Central has started its campaign to revive the ancient times in a series of movies and Web page attractions named "The Good, The Bad, The

80s." Their point in doing this seems to be that the 80s were full of good things that can easily outshine many of the bad.

The decade was a pathway to today. It brought personal computers into our homes. Opened doors to new media and new trends, 3d visuals, a new casual, a new Coke. It is amazing what we got from the ugliest 10 years in history.

Just think of how much sticks: The Internet was a dream and now it is the center of our culture. With the advent of personal computers and synthesizers, music became a totally different beast.

On TV I see ads for "Modern Rock" which is a great collection of progressive and popular music that defined the 80s. Some of it even defines today's music. Tears For Fears, Soft Cell, The Clash and the Pixies. Many popular bands haven't taken the path less followed far from these standard-setting groups.

Many movies are reverting back to the goofy frat party style of the great milestones of the 80s party movie. Movies like "Revenge of the Nerds," "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Rock'n'roll High School Forever" great movies with bad

plots and worse acting. We loved them because they were fun. Rampant, yet innocent, sex romps, loud rock music, and bright sickening colors. Yes they are coming back in movies like "American Pie," "Can't Hardly Wait," and "Get Over It." They all are bringing back the playful nature of the 80s party movies.

Computers are then biggest things to come out of the 80s. It is amazing to think that the Apple IIe would evolve into the mighty G4 cube. G4 is one-third the size of its predecessor and thousands of times more powerful. The power of computers was today was only a crazy pipe dream to developers of the 80s. The movies showed computers taking over our world in the "low-res" glory that computer graphics were in those days. Nobody even thought that computers would actually be that powerful.

If you can look beyond "Reaganomics" and The Gulf War, George Bush Senior (and tight rolled pants), the 80s offered lots of good things. Please just look beyond the ugliness. There is plenty of it.

Crossword

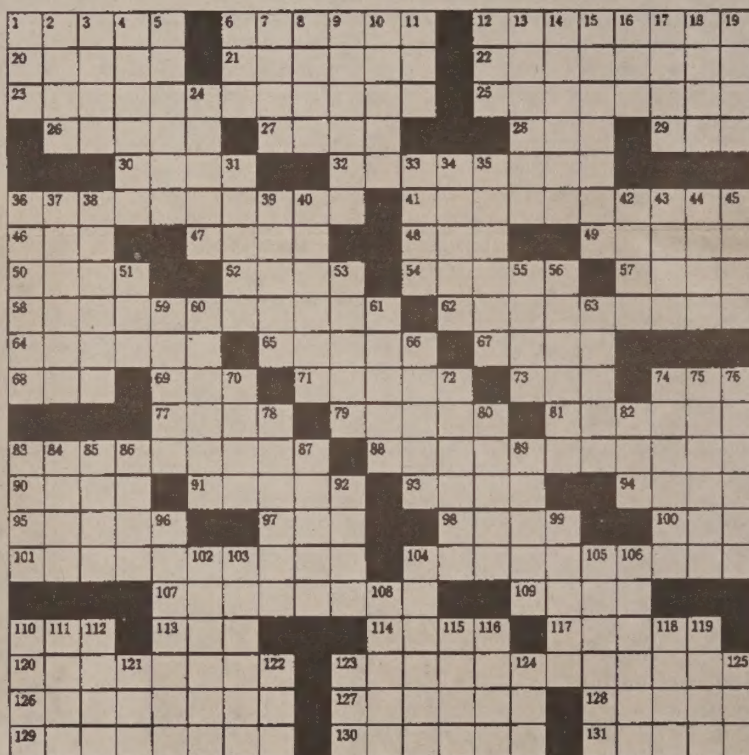
ACROSS

- 1 Up
6 Think about it
12 Retiring place
20 Fashionable Simpson
21 Coho or chum
22 Treated with aqua fortis
23 007 flying to London?
25 Farming reform advocate
26 White sale stuff
27 Ganges garb
28 She cackles
29 RR depot
30 Sends an invitation
32 Clear sheets
36 Friend of Peter and Andrew?
41 Gypsy meeting gypsy?
46 Official sub
47 Piccadilly statue
48 Numero —
49 Capital transit
50 Barely made it
52 Rick's love
54 Harmonies
57 Pupil's place
58 Skinnydipping venue?
62 Highland band?
64 Something babies do
65 Saturday's honoree, briefly
67 Zeno's home
68 Lith., formerly
69 Latin lover's word
71 "— Manner"
73 Hand-holder
74 Call-back req.
77 Carry on
79 Poem of quotes
81 Narcotic
83 Shout from Mineo?
88 Cowboys' coach Tom after a muddy practice?
90 Switch attachment
91 Icelandic coin
93 Glut
94 Galatea's beloved
95 Northern residence
97 Horatian hello
98 Mix and Swift
100 Long-armed primate
101 The moon?

- 104 Firefighter?
107 She jilted Troilus
109 Pinta partner
110 It's crossed in Greece
113 Owns
114 Machu Picchu resident
117 Plumed heron
120 Bewitches
123 Smoke detector box?
126 Blown up
127 Parka
128 Prepare for a trip
129 Wanders about
130 Sucker fish
131 Fencing gear

DOWN

- 1 Pompom girl's cry
2 Adorable one
3 Rig
4 Gymnast Zamoletchikova and actress Verdugo
5 Last in line
6 Syr. neighbor
7 Pops
8 Exile isle
9 Unprincipled
10 Chord type
11 Goal
12 Genetic chem. transcription
13 Quaver note
14 — smarts
15 Window above a door
16 Indian revolutionary — Dayal
17 Elevator man
18 Potatoes accompaniment
19 Novelist Ferber
24 Bracelet place
31 Type ornament
33 Big birds
34 Bennett and Curtis
35 "Now!"
36 Experts
37 Black teas
38 Lid lifter
39 Voting places
40 They're saved
42 Israel's prime minister, 1969-74
43 Other, in Madrid
44 Chamber group
45 ICU site
51 Banned bug bane
53 It glistens
55 Soft drink



- 58 Certain solid alcohol
59 Chicago terminal
60 Sow or cow
61 Compelled
63 St. Petersburg neighbor
66 Ancient Egyptian city
70 Just
72 Sphere front
74 Wacky
75 Decorative line
76 Natural gusher
78 Arks' contents
80 Conductor Klemperer and director Preminger
82 — sec (right away)
83 Dos y cuatro
84 Jason's ship
85 Hang around
86 Ninny
87 Some spouses
89 Aden's land
92 Soprano Grist

- 96 Apple source
99 Alberto Tomba, for one
102 Agent —
103 Canopy
104 Early cab
105 Reserve
106 Muff of a kind
108 Photographer Arbus
110 Swarm
111 Last Stuart monarch
112 USC rival
115 Mackerel
116 A way away
118 The life of Riley
119 Level off
121 Major Chinese people
122 '60s rads
123 Ric Ocasek, for one
124 Volga tributary
125 AWOL pursuers

By Randall J. Hartman

Crossword puzzle answers are on page 10

Women crowned regional champs

BY MATT MESSELAAR
Sports Editor

Most teams set goals at the beginning of each season and most teams fall short of those goals. The NECC Knights set their goal of making the National tournament and achieved that goal with a 76-47 win over Springfield Technical Community College in the finals of the Region XXI Basketball tournament at NECC.

The Knights defeated the Springfield Tech Lady Rams for the fourth time this season. Before the game, Coach Andrew Pittington was concerned about playing Springfield.

"It's hard to beat a team four times in one year because you end up knowing the other teams tendencies so well," Pittington said.

Throughout the regular season the Knights started games slowly, holding slim leads at halftime before exploding in the second half to distance themselves from opponents. The championship game was no different, as the game was tight through the first half with the Knights holding a 35-28 lead at halftime.

True to form, the team came out quickly in the second half, playing excellent defense and knocking down their shots. The seven point halftime deficit would be as close as the Lady Rams would come, as the Knights continued to extend their lead, even with all five starters on the bench during parts of the second half.

Jessica Hamilton led the Knights in scoring with 18 points and Glenda Cancel had 14 points to go with her 7 assists. Lyndsey Hamblet was excellent on the boards, pulling down 11 rebounds and Hamilton also was solid with 7 rebounds.

"We had good bench scoring and everyone contributed. Everything just flowed," Pittington said.

Following the victory, Cancel was named Tournament MVP.

"She had a very strong performance and was the second half spark for us," Pittington said.

Cancel sparked the second half play from her point guard position by directing the offense and leading the team to victory. Tricia Hamblet and Hamilton were named to the All-Tournament team for their strong performances in the victory.

The team now advances to the National Tournament in Corning, New York, where they will compete against the winners of the other seven regions in the nation. They will play number one seeded Fulton-Montgomery out of New York who were 29-3 this season and champions of region three. Though Fulton-Montgomery is the number one seed, Pittington feels that Borough of Manhattan and William Rainey Harper are a bit stronger than Fulton-Montgomery.

Pittington is confident in his team heading into the tournament, "We haven't been blown out all season, and we tend to play better against good teams, so we'll be right in the thick of things." The team matches up well with most teams because of their balanced scoring and good defense.

In order to do well in the tournament Pittington feels the need to press teams and play pressure defense. "The more we keep teams away from the basket the more success we will have."

Though the team has accomplished its goal of making the tournament, Pittington said "getting to the final four would be a great accomplishment, but a National Championship is the ultimate goal."



CHAMPIONS: The Knights proudly show off their Region XXI Championship plaque.



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT: Jade Parker puts up a shot amidst the crowd of Springfield players.



GAME OVER: The team celebrates their victory over Springfield.

Matt Messelaar
photos



FEELING THE PRESSURE: The Knights slowed Springfield with their suffocating defense.